

Amendment to claims

Please cancel claims 40 through 53.

1. (Currently Amended) A link for connecting a pair of spaced members having a set of aligned holes, together, comprising:

a bolt having threaded end portions and a pair of upset portions spaced inwardly relative to said threaded end portions;

a pair of inner grommets each formed of a resilient material, mountable on said bolt and having a portion functional to snap-fit on one of said upset portions of said bolt when said grommet is mounted on said bolt;

a pair of outer grommets each formed of a resilient material, mountable on said bolt and cooperable with one of said inner grommets to engage one of said members therebetween when [[on]] one said inner grommet is mounted [[in]] on said bolt, an adjacent bolt portion is inserted through the hole of one of said members and said outer grommet is mounted on said end of a portion of said bolt extending through said hole; and

a pair of nuts threadable on the threaded portions of said bolt, engageable with an outer grommet mounted on said bolt.

2. (Currently Amended) A link according to claim 1 wherein each of said inner grommets including said functional portion thereof includes a bore for receiving said bolt therethrough and said bore is provided with an annular groove at said functional portion thereof which receives said upset portion of said bolt when said inner grommet is mounted on said bolt and snap-fit on said upset portion.

3. (Original) A link according to claim 1 including a washer insert molded in said inner grommet and engageable with an upset portion of said bolt when said inner grommet is mounted on said bolt.

4. (Currently Amended) A link according to claim 3 wherein said washer is disposed in a main body portion of said inner grommet adjacent said functional portion thereof.

5. (Original) A link according to claim 1 wherein said inner grommets are formed of a urethane material.

6. (Original) A link according to claim 1 wherein said inner grommet includes a hub portion receivable in said hole of said one member.

7. (Original) A link according to claim 1 wherein said outer grommets are formed of a urethane material.

8. (Original) A link according to claim 1 wherein each of said outer grommets includes a hub portion receivable in said one member when said outer grommet is mounted on said bolt.

9. (Currently Amended) A link according to claim 1 wherein each of said outer grommets includes a washer insert molded [[thereon]] therein.

10. (Original) A link according to claim 9 wherein said washer is disposed within a main body portion of said outer grommet, positioned adjacent a nut threaded onto an end portion of said bolt when said link is fully assembled.

11. (Original) A link according to claim 1 wherein each of said nuts includes an annular flange and wherein each of said outer grommets includes a portion functional to snap-fit on the annular flange of one of said nuts.

12. (Currently Amended) A link according to claim 11 wherein each of said outer grommets including said functional portion thereof includes a bore for receiving said bolt therethrough and said bore is provided with an annular groove at said functional portion thereof which receives the flange portion of said nut when said outer grommet is snap-fit on said nut.

13. (Original) A link according to claim 11 wherein said outer grommet includes a washer insert molded therein.

14. (Currently Amended) A link according to claim 13 wherein said washer is disposed in a main body portion thereof adjacent said functional portion.

15. (Original) A link according to claim 14 wherein said washer is engageable by said nut when said link is in the assembled condition.

16. (Original) A link according to claim 11 wherein said outer grommets are formed of a urethane material.

17. (Original) A link according to claim 11 wherein each of said outer grommets includes a hub portion receivable in a hole of one of said members when such link is connected to said spaced members.

18. (Original) A link according to claim 1 wherein each of said outer grommets includes a bore for receiving said bolt therethrough, and the wall of said bore is provided with a protrusion engageable with said bolt extending through said bore, functional to permit said outer grommet to be temporarily frictionally held on an end of said bolt for shipping purposes.

19. (Original) A link according to claim 18 wherein said protrusion has an annular configuration, protruding radially, inwardly into said bore.

20. (Original) A link for connecting a pair of spaced members having a set of aligned holes, together, comprising:

a bolt having threaded end portions and a pair of upset portions spaced inwardly relative to said threaded end portions;

a pair of nuts each having a flange, threadable on a threaded end of said shaft;

a pair of inner grommets each formed of a resilient material and having a washer insert molded therein, a bore through the body thereof and said washer, and a groove in said bore permitting said inner grommet to be snap-fit onto an upset portion of said bolt with said upset portion being received in said groove when said inner grommet is mounted on said bolt with said bolt extending through said bore; and

a pair of outer grommets each formed of a resilient material and having a washer insert mounted therein, a bore through the body thereof and said washer and a groove in said bore permitting said outer grommet to be snap-fit onto a flanged portion of one of said nuts.

21. (Original) A link according to claim 20 wherein the washer of each of said grommets is disposed adjacent said groove in the bore thereof.

22. (Original) A link according to claim 21 wherein each of said grommets includes a hub portion and said groove is disposed in said hub portion.

23. (Original) A link according to claim 22 wherein the washer of each of said grommets is disposed adjacent said groove in the bore thereof.

24. (Original) A link according to claim 20 wherein said grommets are formed of a urethane material.

25. (Currently Amended) A link according to claim [[19]] 20 wherein the grooves of said grommets are configured to permit them to be snap-fit on either of said upset portions of said bolt and said flange portions of said nuts.

26. (Currently Amended) A link according to claim [[19]] 20 wherein said upset portions of said bolt and said flange portion of said nuts have substantially the same configurations, and the grooves of said grommets are configured to permit them to be snap-fit on either of said upset portions and said flanges.

27. (Currently Amended) A link according to claim [[19]] 20 wherein said inner and outer grommets are substantially similarly configured whereby they may be used interchangeably as inner or outer grommets.

28. (Original) A grommet suitable for use in a link for connecting a pair of spaced members having a set of aligned holes, together, generally including a bolt having a pair of spaced upset portions, a pair of inner and outer grommets disposed at each end of said bolt, engaging therebetween one of said members, and retainer means disposed on the ends of said bolt, comprising a body formed of a resilient material having a bore for receiving said bolt therethrough, the wall of said bore having an annular groove allowing said body to be snap-fit onto an upset portion of said bolt when mounted thereon, and a rigid washer insert molded in said body disposed adjacent said groove and having an opening aligned with said bore.

29. (Original) A grommet according to claim 28 wherein said body is formed of a urethane material.

30. (Original) A grommet according to claim 28 wherein said body includes a hub portion and said groove is disposed in said hub portion.

31. (Original) A grommet according to claim 28 wherein said body includes a hub portion receivable in a hole in one of said members when said link is assembled and connected to said spaced members.

32. (Original) A grommet suitable for use in a link for connecting a pair of spaced members having a set of aligned holes, together, generally including a bolt having a pair of spaced, upset portions and at least one threaded end, a pair of inner and outer grommets disposed at each end of said bolt, engaging therebetween one of said members, and means disposed on the ends of said bolt for retaining said pairs of grommets on said bolt including a pair of nuts each having an annular flange, threaded on said threaded end of said bolt, comprising a body formed of a resilient material having a bore for receiving said bolt therethrough, the wall of said bore having an annular groove allowing said body to be snap-fit onto said annular flange portion of one of said nuts, and a rigid washer insert molded in said body disposed adjacent said groove and having an opening aligned with said bore.

33. (Original) A grommet according to claim 32 wherein said body is formed of a urethane material.

34. (Original) A grommet according to claim 32 wherein said body includes a hub portion and said groove is disposed in said hub portion.

35. (Original) A grommet according to claim 32 wherein said body includes a hub portion receivable in a hole in one of said members when said link is assembled and connected to said spaced members.

36. (Original) A grommet according to claim 32 wherein said groove is configured to receive either of one of said upset portions or said flange portion of said nut whereby said grommet may be snap-fit on either of said upset portions or said flange portion of one of said nut.

37. (Original) A grommet according to claim 36 wherein said body is formed of a urethane material.

38. (Original) A grommet according to claim 36 wherein said body includes a hub portion and said groove is disposed in said hub portion.

39. (Original) A grommet according to claim 36 wherein said body includes a hub portion receivable in a hole in one of said members when said link is assembled and connected to said spaced members.

Claims 40 through 53 cancelled.

54. (Original) A link for connecting a pair of spaced members together comprising:

a bolt having a threaded end insertable through an opening in one of said spaced members, means disposed at an opposite end thereof connectable to the other of said spaced members and an upset portion disposed adjacent said threaded end thereof;

an inner grommet formed of a resilient material, mountable on said bolt and having a portion thereof functional to snap-fit on said upset portion of said bolt when said inner grommet is mounted on said bolt;

an outer grommet formed of a resilient material, mountable on said bolt and cooperable with said inner grommet to engage said one of said spaced member therebetween when said inner grommet is mounted on said bolt, said threaded end portion of said bolt is inserted through said opening in said one of said spaced members and said outer grommet is mounted on a portion of said bolt extending through said opening; and

a nut threadable on the threaded portion of said bolt, engageable with said outer grommet mounted on said bolt.